During 2009-10, the allocations of wheat and rice to Madhya Pradesh under TPDS (AAY, BPL and APL) have been increased from 20.85 lakh tons to 28.84 lakh tons.

Price hike of sugar

1744. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar price in open market climbed Rs. 46 per kg. and is expected to keep climbing the way things are;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is estimated that total expected production of sugar in 2009-10 is around 15 million tonnes according to National Sugar Federation of co-operative sugar factories and the expected demand is 23 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) At present, the sugar prices are ruling in the range of Rs.34 to 39 per kilogram in the four metropolitan cities of the country. It is difficult to indicate if sugar prices would keep climbing as sugar price in the market depend upon a number of factors like demand, supply, market sentiments and international prices.

(c) and (d) The National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. has estimated sugar production for the current sugar season 2009-10 to be around 16.0-16.05 million tonnes and the estimated domestic demand of sugar to be around 23 million tonnes. In order to augment availability of sugar in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps, the details of which are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred. Question 1725 Parts (a) to (c).]

Implementation of Abhijit Sen Committee Report

1745. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Abhijit Sen Committee Report fully;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results yielded so far; and

(d) if not, by when the report will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Abhijit Sen Committee's recommendations are taken into consideration, while devising various policies with regard to the Commodity Futures Market. An amendment to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act 1952 (FCR Act) to strengthen